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SUBJ: SENIOR PERSONNEL CHANGES IN THE EXTERNAL SECURITY
ORGANIZATION

TEXT: 1. ON CIRCA 20 OCTOBER 1988 LT. COL. ABDULLAH
((SANUSSI)) WAS FORMALLY APPOINTED AS DIRECTOR OF THE

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OPERATIONS ADMINISTRATION OF LIBYA'S EXTERNAL SECURITY ORGANIZATION (ESO), REPLACING CAPT. ABD-AL-SALAM ((ZADMA)). ON THE SAME DATE ZADMA WAS ASSIGNED SANUSSI'S FORMER POSITION AS HEAD OF THE ESO'S INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION WITH A CONCURRENT TITLE AS HEAD OF THE COUNTER TERRORIST SECTION AT ESO HQS, THE LATTER BEING A POSITION ZADMA HAD HELD IN 1985-86. AS AN ADJUNCT TO HIS NEW ESO DUTIES, ZADMA HAS BEEN PLACED IN CHARGE OF SECURITY AND LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR A PRIVATE FARM OR REST AREA FOR LIBYAN LEADER MU'AMMAR QADHAFI BEING PREPARED WITHIN THE TRIPOLI CITY LIMITS.

2. THE LATE OCTOBER CHANGES WERE THE OUTGROWTH OF QADHAFI'S EARLIER DECISION TO WITHDRAW ZADMA FROM HIGH-VISIBILITY INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY ACTIVITY AND RETURN HIM TO THE SECURITY BATTALIONS IN DEFERENCE TO LIBYAN PUBLIC OPINION. THE MOVE HAD BEEN PROMPTED BY NUMEROUS PUBLIC COMPLAINTS OF ZADMA'S PROMINENT ROLE IN REPRESSIVE MEASURES AGAINST LIBYAN CITIZENRY BY STATE SECURITY ORGANIZATIONS AT A TIME WHEN QADHAFI WISHED TO REPAIR HIS PUBLIC IMAGE. QADHAFI WAS ALSO INTERESTED IN RETURNING THE FIERCELY LOYAL ZADMA TO HIS PRIVATE BODY GUARD FORCE, THE SECURITY BATTALIONS HEADED BY KHALIFA ((HUNAYSH)). ZADMA PROTESTED THE PROPOSED MOVES, SENSING THAT THEY WOULD ENTAIL SIGNIFICANT LOSS OF AUTHORITY, AUTONOMY AND FUNDS. (SOURCE COMMENT: ZADMA IS HELD IN AWE BY MEMBERS OF THE ESO HEADQUARTERS STAFF, NONE OF WHOM WOULD CONSIDER DISPUTING HIS ORDERS. THE MILITARY MEMBERS OF THE

SECURITY BATTALIONS, ESPECIALLY THEIR COMMANDER KHALIFA HUNAYSH, ARE NOT SO TIMID AND WOULD PROBABLY CHALLENGE ZADMA'S AUTHORITARIAN METHODS OF OPERATION). ZADMA TOOK HIS CONCERNS DIRECTLY TO QADHAFI, COMPLAINING OF A NOTIONAL HEALTH PROBLEM THAT WOULD PREVENT HIM FROM A RETURN TO ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY WITH THE SECURITY BATTALIONS. QADHAFI ACQUIESCED AND SUGGESTED A LESS VISIBLE ROLE IN THE ESO. (SOURCE COMMENT: DESPITE THIS NOMINAL DEMOTION WITHIN THE ESO POWER STRUCTURE, ZADMA IS LIKELY TO RETAIN AN INDEPENDENT CAPABILITY TO CONDUCT FOREIGN OPERATIONS UNDER HIS COUNTER TERRORIST SECTION WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPPRESSING LIBYAN DISSIDENTS AT HOME AND ABROAD.)

3. THE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND PARTLY EXPLAINS THE CURRENT PREEMINENCE OF THE COVETED ESO OPERATIONS ADMINISTRATION. IN 1985-86 THE POSITION'S PRESENT INCUMBENT, SANNUSSI, HELD THE TWO TITLES OF DIRECTOR OF THE INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION AND HEAD OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS. IN EARLY 1986 THE OPERATIONS ADMINISTRATION WAS CREATED, RESPONSIBLE FOR SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT SECURITY AND FIRST HEADED BY SAID ((RASHID)). ON 1 JANUARY 1987, A FRIDAY, RASHID TURNED OVER THE OPERATIONS ADMINISTRATION AND WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE ELECTRONIC COMPANY (SHIRKAT AL ELEKTRUNAT), AN ESO SUBSIDIARY. A POWER STRUGGLE ENSUED BETWEEN ZADMA AND THE ESO'S CENTRAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION HEAD, IZZ-AL-DIN ((HINSHIRI)), OVER WHO WOULD INHERIT THE OPERATIONS ADMINISTRATION. ZADMA EVENTUALLY PREVAILED AND IN MARCH 1987 TOOK OVER AS DIRECTOR OF THE OPERATIONS ADMINISTRATION AND EXPANDED ITS FUNCTIONS AS A RESULT OF HIS MILITARY BACKGROUND. (SOURCE COMMENT: OTHER CHANGES WHICH TOOK EFFECT ON 1 JANUARY 1987 AND REMAIN IN EFFECT INCLUDED ABD-AL-BASIT ALI AL-((MIGRAHI'S)) TRANSFER FROM

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HEAD OF AIRCRAFT SECURITY TO DIRECTOR OF THE STRATEGIC STUDIES
CENTER, THEN UNDER ABDULLAH SANUSSI'S INFORMATION
ADMINISTRATION. MEANWHILE, COL. RAMADAN AL-((SARQIQ)) WAS
APPOINTED AS CHIEF OF AIRCRAFT SECURITY).

ACQ: (6 NOVEMBER 1988)

END OF MESSAGE

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